"Let's stop the congress!"

THE WESTBERLIN AUTONOMOUS GROUPS' DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST THE IMF AND WORLD BANK CONGRESS

SAO PAOLO, BRAZIL: DEMONSTRATIONS OF POPULAR RESISTANCE TO IMF POLICIES.

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What are the functions of the IMF and the World Bank?

The Days of Action will take place in West Berlin from 26.9 to29.9.88, parallel to the congress of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank (WB). In September they will all be coming here: the finance bosses from the capitalist centres of Tokyo, Frankfurt and New York; bank managers from Chase Manhattan to 'Deutsche Bank'; the people who commit murders sitting at desks in the nerve centres of the multinationals Toyota, Lockheed, Siemens; the speculators from the computer terminals of international currency dealing. On top of that, ministers, secretaries of state, experts, journalists and their guards, more than 14,000 altogether.

The situation we have is clear: those responsible for hunger, exploitation, wars and terror throughout the world are coming to this "capital of the free world". Our motto is: "Let's stop the congress!"

But who are the IMF and World Bank? What purpose do they have in the capitalist system? How did they develop historically?

After World War II the World Bank and the IMF came into being within the framework of the new order of the capitalist world economic system at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944, as instruments of capitalist world rule. It was, and is , all about transposing onto a world scale the policies that the Nazis had practised beforehand: develop-ment through extermination. The revolutionary struggles in Europe (especially Southern and South-Eastern Europe), in the USA and in the Three Continents("Third World") make up the background to the rise of the IMF and World Bank. These struggles forced the newly rising imperialist world order, with the USA now in its centre, to begin a step-by-step decolonisation of the Three Continents and the establishment of dependent economic zones in Europe and Japan. This system finally came into crisis at the end of the 50s. This was caused by anticolonialist struggles and liberation movements and by the collapse of the industrialisation plans in the furthest developed countries of Latin America and Asia.

The answer to this was the "Decade of Develop-ment" proclaimed by the UNO in 1961, with the "Green Revolution" as an essential component. For the tricontinental masses, this meant the destruction of their subsistence structures, the expulsion of the so-called surplus rural population into the slums of the newly-rising industrial centres. This was simultaneously the start of a new realisation of patriarchal violence through the imposition of the money economy.

An integral part of the Devolop-ment Decade was the World Bank credits, which financed mainly infrastructural requirements for the penetration of the tricontinental economies (harbours, roadbuilding, dams).

But towards the end of the 60s there was a series of revolts in the periphery as well as in the metropoles. These struggles led directly to the crisis of the 70s.

Capital's answer was a frontal attack on the class worldwide: rises in the price of wheat, and wheat shortages, oil price rises and increased dollar inflation. The calculated result was millions of deaths caused by hunger in the periphery, shifting of" unproductive industries" from the metropoles to the periphery (lower wage levels) and mass unemployment and reductions in real wages in the metropoles. With a background of massive awards of credit, which fed on the international finance markets that were swollen by surplus petro- and Euro-dollars, the so-called "stabilisation policies" of the IMF came more into the foreground.
Basically the programmes mean a dismantling of "unproductive" expenditure (food subsidies etc.) and the restructuring of the tricontinental national economies as suppliers for the multinational companies.

But this development concept was broken to pieces by the end of the 70s, by the resistance that exploded worldwide, and which reached a peak in the Nicaraguan and Iranian revolutions.
The second oil crisis, staged by capital in 1979, was the springboard into the "expensive dollar" policy. The tricontinental debts are raised in value by the rise in interest rates; the so-called debt crisis follows from that. The main organisers of this debt crisis are the IMF and World Bank. The size of the debts should not, however, distract our attention from what is really the main thrust of the capitalist attack: securing profit for capital through coordinated programmes of annihilation and exploitation.

The high interest rates on the international finance markets finally blocked the credit awards in those areas with an expected profit rate below the interest rate.

In addition, capital created for itself an essential instrument for carrying through its world social policies using the IMF policies regarding conditions (on debts).

Whether people have something to eat, under what conditions they have to work, whether they face compulsory sterilisation, or are allowed to die of hunger, is almost completely beyond the scope of decisions made by national governments, be they military dictatorships, national bourgeoisies of former liberation movements. The results of these world social policies are similar everywhere. Millions of people are deprived of the basis of their subsistence and driven out of their communities. Women are in the centre of this attack. Mass sterilisation and the "extermination through work" that really goes on in the factories and brothels that serve the world market are just the tip of the iceberg of patriarchal exploitation in the 80s. This concept does not proceed without friction. It is women who are more and more active in the social revolts in the Three Continents today.

PERU: REPRESSION & RESISTANCE UNDER IMPERIALIST POLITICS.

Here in the metropoles, the IMF policies are also becoming clear to see. With the help of the policy of high interest rates income is lowered here too, and new conditions of exploitation are forced onto the class (flexible working hours, part-time work, compulsory redundancy, forced work, cuts in all areas of the welfare state, tax reform etc.).

Our motto is: Let's stop the congress!
We have said earlier that " our slogan is a step towards the concentration of our forces here". We have let a lot of chances to get a bit nearer to this goal slip by. But stopping the congress still means to us "clearly showing them: it won't be a prestigious meeting for the rich and powerful, but a demonstration of worldwide resistance." It is important to us that this slogan is understood as a common objective of the radical left, even if it means we are accused of an inability to reach concensus and of overestimating our own strength.

We can only take the right steps if we are not going in the wrong direction. The call for debt-cancellation may mean a temporary breathing space for the dependent countries, but new mechanisms will replace the old ones, in the long term nothing changes. The recent defensive statements by bankers an statesmen on debt repayments rather seem to show that a part

cancellation of debts or more favourable terms of repayment are quite compatible with continuing IMF and World Bank policies. The massive resistance worldwide is forcing the system to reform itself and to choose its methods more subtly in order to be able to go on working efficiently without being too quickly identifiable as a murder machine.

During the congress they will try to break all forms of protest - let alone resistance -- with intensified repression. But we won't allow ourselves to be forced back into the peace of our homes. We will not take on the function of a figleaf for this system (, making it more credible) by romping on the oppositional playing field before the congress, and afterwards letting the honourable gentlemen stage their show undisturbed, their demonstration of power over our streets and heads. This spectrum supports social movements including liberation movements in the Three Continents, but does not concern itself with the attacks on capital in the metropoles. The struggles of the peoples of the Three Continents are seen as reformist. The need to attack the system in its metropoles and fight for the liberation of the Three Continents in that way is not seen.

However, we welcome the initiative of all groups who have shown interest in the Days of Action.

Monday 26.9.88 Day of struggle against being forced to work. Women's work as the basis of domination and exploitation.

The patriarchal capitalist system lives from the exploitation of human work. People work day after day, any time and everywhere, only a fraction is wage work.

All unpaid work is not viewed as work at all by capital, even though it may not only be important for our own survival, but may also be a precondition for the continued existence of domination and exploitation.

So-called housework, unpaid reproduction work, is of central importance in the field of unpaid work. It is almost always done by women, mostly under the marriage-work-contract, in the nuclear family. Women are to maintain or create the commodity 'working power' of men, children and themselves for capital. This includes sexuality, the birth and bringing up of children, work in relationships, cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, going shopping...
"Housework is seen as private and personal, and above all as a service done out of love. The head of the house, the husband, is legally and ideologically given control over the money and consequently power over the wife and children. In that way the power- and work-relations within the family make up the basis of the gender and class division."(women's demo)

The sector in which the most paid jobs have sprung up in recent years and - due to the especially low wages - the biggest profits have been made, is the so-called "services" sector, which includes paid reproduction work. The number of jobs in fast food restaurants, brothels, peep shows, in porn film production, as well as in advertising, has increased. In hospitals, old peoples' homes, in the whole welfare state, where budgets are constantly cut, no more jobs mean even more work for those working there. With the extension of part of this sector and the cuts in health and welfare services, as well as especially low wages, an attempt is being made to impose a cut in income and real wages for all parts of the dominated and exploited class.

While for example the churches give themselves a good image by spreading and organising unpaid voluntary work, working conditions in the health sector get worse and at the same time jobs which up to now have been paid are made into voluntary housework in the family. By cooperation with the women and men who work in the health sector, we can relate more exactly to the resistance and refusal and the contradictions within it, in the action we will later describe.
We will take to the streets on exactly those days and will say clearly with various actions why we think the IMF and World Bank in their structures cannot be changed by reforms, just like the system that is behind them, and whose only logic is: power for a few, and work, hunger and death for the rest.

Of course, capitalism works internationally, our answer is internationalism. That means we won't be confused by the apparent division between abortion restrictions here and forced sterilisation there, by freedom of movement within the borders of the EC and the closed borders for refugees, whose countries of origin range from Turkey to the Three Continents, the 14-hour days in the factories supplying the world market in the Three Continents and the flexibilisation of working hours here, but we will see the attack for what it is: the attempt to make profits out of us, even from our genes.
A broad spectrum of groups is organising a 'counter congress' and a mass demonstration before the congress starts. The analyses that are to be proposed to the 'counter congress' are intended as a critique of the 'worst excesses' of the IMF and World Bank policies, the aim is to reform these institutions. The demands are: immediate debt-cancellation and a just world economic order.
A reform of the institutions can succeed, for the purposes of modernisation and adaptation to changed conditions, but it changes nothing in the character of its long term policies.

Through the payment of a wage to the man, or higher wages for men, the patriarchal relation of violence is transplanted into the family. Women's wage work appears as extra income, being worse paid.

That means:
Across the class there runs a sexist division, a sexist hierarchy, caused by patriarchy. A division and hierarchy which subjects women to a double relation of violence which in a way marks a 'second' (or first) line of confrontation.
With the weapon of unemployment, millions of women and men have been forcibly mobilised into insecure and low-paid jobs in the last 10 years.

Since the start of the 80s, capital has tried more and more to recruit new classes of workers using 'slave merchants' (temporary work agencies) and private subcontractors, using them to try and replace the regular workforce in the factories, and attack the guarantees, wages and working conditions that they have won. Foreigners, unqualified young people and of course women who'earn additional income' are especially suitable for this.

In this way, capital could carry through a reduction in real wages against the class. Together with the reduction in real wages there is at the same time more unpaid housework to be done in the family.

The proportion of permanently and full-time employed women has stayed the same since 1977. (In the same period a million jobs for foreigners have been cut.) During this time there has been an increase in women's jobs as a result of the increase in part-time working.

Education and dividing us up, punishing and regulating us are forms of violence with which work discipline is imposed against the class's attitude of refusal. Compulsion to work plays an important part in prisons and special homes and in the whole penal system.

On the one hand, fines are used more often as punishment or sentences are suspended according to if you have regular work. At the same time prisons are converted more and more into factories.

Whether it's in school, in the household, in hospital, in the office or factory, in homes for the disabled or in prison, everywhere we are meant to work in one way or another, we are disciplined for work and prepared for it, we are meant to get qualifications for it.

Class struggle internationalism means for us that we want to connect with everyday forms of resistance that the class has worldwide. Individual forms of refusal (taking time off 'sick', not going to work, sabotage, refusing the prison of marriage, fare-dodging, rent strikes) as well as organised forms (strikes, squatting houses and land, looting, armed struggle etc.) could be starting points for class struggles. We want to continue the struggle against compulsion to work as a central weapon against domination and exploitation.

The World Bank and IMF are just 2 out of many instruments with which capital is trying to impose compulsion to work around the world. We want to name and politically attack other firms and institutions which daily confront us with waged and unwaged work in a public action on the first Day of Action.

With the following ideas we want to express in practice what has been roughly outlined in theory.

We plan a demonstration at Breitscheidtplatz, where there are 'slave merchants', department stores, sickness insurance companies, a church, fast food stands, porn cinemas, airlines ...
Here is an example of the kind of actions planned. Airlines don't just make money from sex tourism. Pan Am also profits from forced labour in prison. Through contacts with prisoners and to prison groups/newspapers we want to connect with the refusal of forced labour in prison and we want to show the connecting lines with forced labour in homes or organised by the social security. There are also connections between forced labour and compulsion to work eg. fines and suspended sentences as well as all forms of compulsory work. This can for example be expressed by prison demonstrations, actions at the social or leaflets.

Through the composition of the working group preparing the actions - temporary workers' groups, women's groups, prison groups - priorities for actions are becoming clear. These are: insecure work, 'slave merchants', forced work in prison, PanAm, work in the health sector, sickness insurance. Also the antinuclear movement is mobilising for diverse actions.

"On 26.9 we'll stick our nose into Siemens' business in Siemens City (a district of Berlin). They are important profi-eers out of IMF/World Bank policies.

To us, Siemens stands as an example of anti-life, patriarchal capitalist organisation of working and living conditions. Women's work, both for wages and in the field of reproduction is the foundation and material basis for the maintenance of d-ination and profit.

We want to put the company's strategy onto the agenda and develop practical resistance - inside and outside - with the actions.
- restructuring and flexibilisation in and by Siemens (the develop-ment of 'new technologies')
-working conditions here and in the Three Continents
- production in factories supplying the world market, women's work, temporary work.
- the building of nuclear power plants/ nuclear reprocessing plants, Siemens the nuclear company,

are just a few points.
The political aim is open interference in the everyday life of the district of Siemens City, which is without doubt firmly under the influence of the Siemens production plants and the IMF/World Bank congress that is taking place not far away." - the antinuclear movement.

2nd. day. 27.9.88

Day of Action against population policy, development policy, racism and sexism.
"Overpopulation" in the 3rd. World
Birth control in Puerto Rico - 40% of women sterilised.
§ 218 (abortion restriction law) - 'murder of the unborn life'
80% Turkish children in Kreuzberg schools.
"Are the Germans dying out?"
Human genetic counselling (advises women to abort if they are carrying a disabled foetus)
Surplus people? - Population policy!

Everywhere in the world people are trying to live free and selfdetermined lives. They are simply not complying with capitalism's aims of exploitation. They refuse, or organise against their oppressors, they fight for their selfdetermination. The

offensive of population policy is directed against all people who don't comply with capital's strategy of exploitation, and who defend themselves.

Women are in the centre of the attack. It's not only that they have done the reproductive work, ie. housewives' work, bringingup of children,etc. since the establishment of patriarchal power, but because women are crucial participants in the resistance. Through genetic and reproduction technology, capital is gaining direct access to women's ability to give birth, women's lives and women's bodies. They say it quite openly: it's easier to kill a guerrillero in his mother's womb than in the jungle.

The population policy of the 80s is a central component of IMF/World Bank policy. The heart of this policy is separating the people who can be exploited by capital from the mass of the world population. As the worldwide class struggles are becoming more and more uncontrollable for capital, it is forced to answer with a global concept of selection and exter- -mination.

In the metropoles this happens in human genetic counselling, which restrains women from having children that are potentiall unexploitable even before they are born. Genetic recording*, the restructuring of the health sector*,the marginalisation of women, foreigners, the old and the sick, and all those who don't integrate, is all based on the same racist principle.

In the countries of the Three Continents, this attack is much more brutal. Capital's tools range from driving people out of their territory by destroying their self-sufficient structures and using agro-business that has been modernised using genetic technology, to the use of development aid for counter-insurgency and pacifying people, to the staging of regional limited wars.

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* One aspect of this is the planned use of vast genetic data banks to select the genetically best-qualified workers for a given job.

The streams of refugees that arise are meant to be used in factories that supply the world market or annihilated by the use of hunger as a weapon against those who can't be integrated. Measures to reduce the population, forced -t- sterilisation programmes, birth control injections that are effective for 3 months at a time, and the abortion restriction laws(here)are all part of the same programme. Women are no longer meant to be in a position to decide if they have children, but the men of power want to secure access to women's bodies. Here they call abortion 'murder of an unborn life', in the Three Continents they talk of overpopulation.

There is no such thing as overpopulation!
Surplus population as defined by capital means: surplus for making profit, surplus mouths to feed, and surplus because of the potential for disturbances.

Neither famine nor poverty are natural. On the contrary, they are the calculated result of imperialist world policies, in which the IMF/World Bank have a key function.
Mass looting in Sao Paolo
FMLN storms barracks in ElSalvador
A strike at Adler*in S.Korea
Adler*in W.Germany wrecked by (arson) attack
Attack on the'Friedrich Ebert Stiftung' *
Attempted attack on the IMF office
Attempted attack on a genetic technology institute
Everywhere in the world there is massive resistance to the depopulation programmes financed by the IMF and World Bank. The so-called bread- and IMF-riots stretch from Africa, Asia and Latin America to the resistance in the metropoles. From the struggle against sterilisation programmes, the organisation of women around the world, land occupations, looting and mass strikes, to liberation movements in the Three Continents, from looting and strikes to militant resistance in the metropoles, people are expressing their needs in the worldwide class struggles.

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* See notes at the end.

The system of debts, exploitation and extermination has no mistakes - it IS the mistake!!!
Imperialism has names and addresses! On the 2nd. Day of Action we want to visit the following places: in the morning a blockade of Tegel Airport.

Tegel Airport is Allied Forces' base no.165 and is under the control of the French Commandant. It has civil and military functions. At the airport the National Security Agency(NSA), the military intelligence service of the USA's national security council,has a radar station. In Spring '86 the NSA allegedly received a radio message from the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin to a group in West Berlin to the effect that the group was responsible for the bomb attack on the 'La Belle'disco that was frequented by GIs. That was the constructed basis for the bombardment of Libya by the US airforce.

The airport is a focal point for deportation, sex tourism and the trade in women. The "brothel culture" in Asia is the continued degrading heritage of the military intervention of the UStroops during the Vietnam War. Today the tourists have taken over the role of the GIs in the prostitution business. In addition, Tegel is often the last stop before deportation by Berlin's justice.

During the 4 days of the congress, PanAm has reserved 2,000 seats a day for congress participants. Berliners have been reccommended on TV to greet the arriving bankers. We second that.

Midday: short demo at Schering

Schering is one of the biggest transnational concerns in the chemical-pharmaceutical industry,trading in more than 20 countries. In 1985, Schering, together with Berlin Council, founded the "Institute for genetic-biological research" at the Free University. The company has the sole rights to exploit the results of the research. Alongside medicine, Schering produces artificial fertilisers, industrial chemicals and pesticides. Among other things, the pesticide 'Fundal', which causes cancer and is banned in W.Germany, is exported to the countries of the Three Continents. Every year more than 40,000 people die of pesticide poisoning.

Based on the investigation into the anti-baby pill started by Schering during the Nazi era, the 3 monthly birthcontrol injection 'Noristerat' was developed. For every 100 women administered with 'Noristerat', 75 stay infertile for ever. Calculated selection and elimination happens in the metropoles as well as in the Three Continents.: in W.Germany the 3 monthly injection is used above all for foreign women, women dependent on social security, and women who are disabled and in psychiatric institutions. Schering's dirty business has a tradition, names and addresses:Schering AG, Berlin 65, Müllerstr. 170.

PROTEST AGAINST THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION SCHERING.

We want to meet again in one or more department stores (that have been made known beforehand) for a"department store inspection", in order to give our fantasies free rein there. For example: spraying goods from South Africa and Israel, giving out leaflets, playing invisible theatre, annoying detectives, using the confusion to fill our pockets, cut off security labels, sabotage cash tills and much more...

To us, a department store is not only a temple of consumption, but also a factory in which many hundreds of people work; you might get a kick out of paying out your hard-earned money, but above all it's a place of work for thousands of housewives who have to do the daily shopping there.

In the evening we want to go to the Ku'damm or nearby establishments to disturb the bosses at their leisure and at their high-class meals, eat the rich.

4th. day, 29-9-88

The dividing line is not between the metropoles here and the countries of the Three Continents, but between above and below!

The fourth Day of Action is to make it clear that there is a worldwide struggle against the oppressors and blood suckers, both in the Three Continents and here.

Capital creates prosperity: a lot of prosperity for the owners of capital, some prosperity for the small shareholders, and no prosperity for the oppressed and those who are sucked dry.

Without ruthless plundering, without the squeezing out of working power and without the exploitation of women's work, this prosperity would not be attainable for the few. So the whole thing is organised, coordinated, prepared and secured by the national and international administrators of the "community", which means their organisation of the "common" interest for the criminal concentration of wealth.

For a strong internationalist revolutionary demonstration against the IMF and World Bank

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NOTES

-(from p.12) 'Adler' sells discount clothing in W.Germany produced by low-paid women in S.Korean factories, and was attacked by Red Zora in an arson campaign in solidarity with the women . The 'Friedrich Ebert Stiftung' is a social democratic organisation.

-(from p. 21) 'Sunday walks' are a traditional form of action at sites of mass protest like Wackersdorf and Frankfurt Airport.

- 'The class' is used instead of the phrase 'the working class because extermination (eg. through hunger) rather than exploitation in wage work is what maybe more people worldwide are confronted with. Mass unemployment in the metropoles is just one reason that the traditional industrial worker is no longer characteristic of the class as a whole. In many countries of the Three Continents, women's wage work has quickly expanded,* and women and young people are often more in the forefront of class struggle (eg. Palestine). The question of what identifies the class worldwide is part of an ongoing discussion in W.Germany.

- 'Three Continents' is used instead of 'THird World' because there aren't three worlds (!)

*This is also relevant because the word for 'working class' in German that is traditionally used refers to male workers and so ignores women workers, so the term 'the class' is used to avoid sexism.

This document has been published by D@wn of Liberty, an information group which focuses on autonomous struggles of resistance. This document has been translated by a W. German comrade. We also have other pamphlets, on the IMF, actions that took place in W. Berlin in Sept. 88, multinational corporations and others. As well, we publish "Endless Struggle" , which focuses on anti-imperialist, anti-patriarchy, class struggle, anarchism, cultures of resistance, & revolutionary struggles. A sample issue is available for $1.50 from the address below. Besides paper, we've also organised information evenings on various struggles, an anarchist bookfair, & a small picnic.
When requesting pamphlets please include about $1 for copying & postage.
Any cheques made out to "Dawn of Liberty", donations appreciated!!

PO Box 69601 Stn K, Vancouver BC, V5K 4W7 Canada